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the various acts by which the administration does its work, and on the control of the administration and administrative courts, which is the clearest discussion of this much-treated subject that I have seen.

One of the noticeable characteristics of the book is the continual reference to recent periodical literature, which is extremely rich. On this account, if for no other, the book is indispensable to every student of German administration. It is to be regretted, however, that it has no index; its usefulness as a book of reference is much lessened by this omission.

FRANK J. GOODNOW.

A Table chronologically arranged of the Statutes of the State of New York, amended, repealed, continued, or otherwise modified or affected, covering the laws passed from the session of 1777 to the close of the session of 1886. By CLARENCE F. BIRDSEYE, of the New York Bar. New York, L. K. Strouse & Co., 1887.

The general object of this work is to present only such statutes of the state as have either been affected by later legislation or refer to acts previously passed. It is thus an index to the progress and development of state legislation. In a variety of ways this book is most useful and instructive. One of its most valuable teachings is the instability of our legislation. Take the year 1871 (chosen at random) as a specimen. Nine hundred and fifty laws or chapters were enacted in that year. Of these, five hundred and forty-one chapters either affect prior legislation or are affected by subsequent laws. The year 1886 yields similar and even worse results. Out of six hundred and eighty-one laws four hundred and fourteen are found in Mr. Birdseye's list. Facts like these should cause the people of the state to pause before insisting upon a civil code, which, according to the experience of a hundred years, would be subject to incessant legislative tinkering, leading to ruinous confusion and uncertainty. This work is to be commended from another point of view. It will be found to be indispensable to the legal practitioner in the performance of one of the most difficult branches of his work,—that of the interpretation and construction of statutes,—in enabling him readily to collate various statutes on the same subject.

Such a book as this is, of course, only useful when prepared with accuracy and fine legal discrimination. There is every reason to believe that it will stand the tests which the profession will soon apply to it. It is, as we happen to know, the product of the most patient industry and painstaking attention on the author's part. His abilities and fidelity are a reasonable guaranty that his task is well performed. The materials are conveniently arranged, and the student can in an instant

refer to any statute that he may have under consideration. We heartily commend this book, not only to lawyers, but to any one interested in the history of legislation.

THEODORE W. DWIGHT.

Revue d'Economie politique. Première année, no. 1. Paris, Larose et Forcel, 1887.—8vo, 108 pp.

The number of scientific reviews devoted to economics is growing apace. During the past year we have had occasion to record the creation of such journals in America, Italy, Denmark, and Roumania. Now France falls into line, with a new review which bids fair to dispute supremacy with the *Journal des Économistes*, leaving only England to give evidence of the renewed activity of late imparted to economic research.

Almost a decade ago political economy was made a regular part of the curriculum of the French law schools throughout the country. Among the professors who filled these new chairs a gradual feeling of discontent with the prevalent spirit and methods of French economics has made itself felt, and has finally culminated in the creation of the *Revue d'Économie politique*, a bimonthly publication. Its editors are Professors Charles Gide of Montpellier, Alfred Jourdain of Aix, Edmond Villey of Caen, and Leon Duguit of Bordeaux, all of whom are favorably known to foreign specialists as the authors of comprehensive treatises on economics. Among the twenty-two principal collaborators we notice such well-known writers as Cossa, De Flaix, Garnier, Laveleye, Simon, and Walras. The first number contains articles by Jourdain, on methods of teaching economics; by Beauregard, on the rise of wages in the nineteenth century; by Fournier de Flaix, on theories of taxation in Australia; an interesting *chronique* or sketch of the development of the science since 1870, by Gide; an account of a late meeting of the Lyons society of political economy; and reviews of new books.

The editors and co-workers of the new review belong to different schools. The programme declares that its columns shall be open to all, that absolute neutrality is to be the key-note of the enterprise. This, they assert, is sufficient to give the publication "une physionomie tout à fait originale." In contradistinction to the French journals already in existence, this review "ne sera l'organe ni d'une personnalité ni d'une école." Practically thus the review may be regarded as a moderate protest against the adherents of the orthodox school who still rally round the *Journal des Économistes*; and this influence is strengthened by the fact that not a single Parisian writer, except Simon, is found among its contributors. The conclusion is re-inforced beyond the peradventure of